



Department of Developmental Disabilities

Office of the Director

John R. Kasich, Governor
John L. Martin, Director

April 8, 2015

Dear Transitions DD (TDD) Waiver Recipients and Families:

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has heard from individuals and families that the Transitions DD (TDD) Waiver isn't meeting their needs – the waiver has a lack of employment supports, minimal access to services that help people become more involved in their communities, and limited providers. Because of this, DODD has been working with the families of individuals enrolled in TDD, providers, County Boards, and state agencies to determine how best to support individuals on the TDD Waiver.

Based on that work, DODD has decided to transition people on the TDD Waiver to a different waiver that will better meet their needs. This transition will occur over a two-year period.

Below is a summary of what this means for you because you are enrolled in the TDD Waiver.

How will my needs continue to be met?

You will be able to enroll in the Individual Options (IO) Waiver. This waiver offers a broader array of services than TDD, including day and employment options. IO services also are designed to help you become more involved in community activities. In addition, a nursing service will be added to the IO Waiver, effective July 1, 2016.

If you believe another waiver would better meet your needs, you can choose to enroll in one of DODD's other two waivers – the Level One Waiver or the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver. Your Service and Support Administrator (SSA) can talk about waiver options with you. You also can find information about all three waivers on DODD's website – visit DODD.Ohio.gov, go to the Individuals & Families section, then the Waiver Types page.

When will you begin transitioning people from the TDD Waiver to other waivers?

DODD has submitted a proposed plan for the transition to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency that oversees Medicaid-funded waivers. If CMS approves the plan, the transition period will begin July 1, 2015. After everyone has transitioned, the TDD Waiver will no longer exist.

How do I find out when I will transition to my new waiver?

DODD has developed a tentative schedule based upon the types of services individuals require, and their waiver span, or their waiver-begin and -end dates. If you have minimal nursing needs, you likely would transition to your new waiver between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016, at the time of your annual redetermination. If you require ongoing nursing services, you would transition to your new waiver after July 1, 2016 – once the IO nursing service is available.

Your County Board will receive a list of the schedule, and your SSA will share your transition date with you and your family. If you feel you need to change your date, you can do that if you and your local County Board both agree the new date will work.

What will happen to my TDD providers?

DODD will ensure that all current TDD providers will be certified to provide similar services under the IO, Level One, and SELF Waivers by July 1, 2015. This will allow you to keep your current providers after you transfer to another waiver, if you choose to continue working with them.

Each of you should have an SSA through your local County Board. If you have questions, we would suggest that you contact them. You also may contact DODD at TDDinbox@dodd.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Martin".

John L. Martin, Director
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Cc: Lori Horvath, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
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Superintendents, County Boards of Developmental Disabilities